(b) breaking up said compacts using a mill to form granules of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-α-aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester, substantially all of said granules having a particle size from about 20 mesh to about 200 mesh; and

(c) dry blending said granules of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-α-aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester with said blending agent.

91. (New) The process of claim 90 wherein said blending agent is selected from the group consisting of aspartame, acesulfame salts, sucralose, saccharin, alitame, cyclamates, stevia derivatives, thaumatin, sucrose, fructose, dextrose, polyol sugar alcohols, dextrose, citric acid, dextrin, maltodextrin, dextrose-maltodextrin blends, lactose, inulin, erythritol, sorbitol, stevioside, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L-α-aspartyl]-L- phenylalanine 1-methyl ester and mixtures thereof.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the new claims set forth above. Applicant believes that no new matter has been added. While Applicant reiterates the arguments made in the response of January 9, 2002. Applicant further wishes to stress that all of the claims contain limitation as to the specific inventive compaction method.

Additionally, numerous claims include specific elements which are not included in the cited references, and/or from which the cited references teach away. In particular, the cited Kataoka reference teaches away from the production of neotame granules comprising additional ingredients such as binders, sweeteners and carriers. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the cited reference of the particular utility of certain particle size distributions of the inventive product in certain end products. For example, please note claims 84-91 in this regard.

In light of the above amendments and arguments (including those previously set forth), Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey M. Hoster
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,240
(312) 873-5019

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